Appl. No. (not yet assigned) Amdt. dated December 30, 2003 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 13-20 will be pending in this application and presented for examination. Claims 1-12 and 21-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

JS:jc 60110134 v1